

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 115993  
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 DODE-00 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 /075 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:MARIETTI:ILB  
APPROVED BY PM - MR. KAHAN  
ACDA - DCLINARD  
EA/ANP - TWAJDA

-----035324 062133Z /62

R 060128Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0250

S E C R E T STATE 115993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, XO

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON THE INDIAN  
OCEAN

1. AT HIS REQUEST, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY DCM BIRCH CALLED  
ON PM DEPUTY DIRECTOR KAHAN TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- DURING APRIL MEETING ASSISTANT DEFENSE SECRETARY  
PRITCHETT HAD TOLD PM DIRECTOR GELB THAT SOVIETS HAD  
INVITED AUSTRALIA TO SEND DELEGATION TO MOSCOW FOR  
BILATERAL TALKS ON INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES. PRITCHETT ASKED  
FOR US VIEWS ON DESIRABILITY OF SUCH TALKS. GELB SAID  
US WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION, BUT FINAL DECISION UAS UP TO  
GOA.

-- AUSTRALIANS SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD SOVIETS THEY DID NOT THINK  
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IT WAS NECESSARY TO SEND A TEAM TO MOSCOW FOR CONSULTATIONS  
AND SUGGESTED TOPIC BE PUT ON AGENDA FOR NEXT REGULARLY-  
SCHEDULED SOVIET-AUSTRALIAN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS.

-- SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN CANBERRA THEN AGAIN PRESSED FOR  
MORE SUBSTANTIAL CONSULTATIONS AND SAID MOSCOW DOES NOT  
VIEW ADDING THIS TOPIC TO AGENDA OF ROUTINE SOVIET-

AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATIONS AS ADEQUATE TO IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE.

-. AUSTRALIANS HAVE THEREFORE INSTRUCTED THEIR AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH TO DISCUSS INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES. AUSTRALIANS INTEND TO KEEP TALKS GENERAL, WILL PROTECT US CONFIDENCES, AND WILL INFORM US OF RESULTS OF TALKS.

2. KAHAN COMMENTED THAT IN HIS VIEW IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR SOVIETS TO HAVE BENEFIT OF DIRECT AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON THE TALKS. WE HAVE TOLD SOVIETS THAT WHILE TALKS ARE BILATERAL WE HAVE TO TAKE THE VIEWS OF OUR ALLIES INTO ACCOUNT. SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS, BUT US POSITION REMAINS THE SAME, I.E., SOVIETS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT AN INDIAN OCEAN AGREEMENT COULD NOT PERMIT CONTINUATION OF CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE115993  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MARIETTI:ILB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780194-0178  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**SAS ID:** 2769788  
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**Subject:** AUSTRALIAN-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN  
**TAGS:** PARM, XO, IO, AS, UR  
**To:** CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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